



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/577,212

04/25/2006

Holger Leicht

10191/4238

3343

26646

7590

05/29/2008

KENYON & KENYON LLP
ONE BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10004

EXAMINER

SWARTHOUT, BRENT

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2612

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

05/29/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/577,212	Applicant(s) LEICHT, HOLGER	
	Examiner Brent A. Swarthout	Art Unit 2612	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 February 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 8-12 and 14-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 8-12 and 14-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4-25-06</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 8-12 and 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Forbes et al. in view of Yoshinori or Yoshinori, Bender et al. and Hightower, and further in view of Sato et al.

Forbes discloses a lane assist system for a vehicle comprising a sensor device 102/104 for detecting lanes, device 406 for alerting a driver that vehicle is or may depart from a lane, except for specifically stating that warning involves a vibration in a seat indicating which direction lane deviation is occurring. It is noted that elements 408 and 410 do teach desirability of indicating to which side lane deviation is occurring.

Bender teaches desirability in a lane deviation warning system of using either visual or seat vibrating means to alert a driver to lane deviation (col. 6, lines 17-19).

Hightower further teaches desirability in a vehicle of vibrating either side of a seat to indicate direction of deviation of a vehicle from a desired path (abstract).

Furthermore, Yoshinori teaches desirability in a vehicle warning system of providing vibration alerts at portions of a seat corresponding to direction of a threat approaching from behind when a vehicle is changing lanes (abstract).

Sato teaches desirability in a vehicle alarm system of providing warning when a vehicle is rapidly approaching from behind (col. 16, lines 3-5).

It would have been obvious to utilize left and right seat vibration means to indicate which direction a vehicle was deviating a lane at with an approaching vehicle in a system as disclosed by Forbes, since Bender and Hightower teach desirability of using , vibrations to indicate course deviation direction, and Yoshinori teaches direction of lane change with approaching vehicle, which would have permitted notification even in noisy or bright environments where light and sound alerts would have been distracting or hard to detect. Choosing to indicate rapidly approaching vehicles as suggested by Sato would have been further obvious in order to avoid nuisance alerts from slowly approaching vehicles that did not present a hazard.

Regarding claim 12, Bender teaches using any combination of sound or light for an alarm (col. 6, lines 16-19).

2. Claims 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Forbes et al. in view of Yoshinori or Yoshinori, Bender et al. and Hightower, and further in view of Yamasaki.

Forbes, Yoshinori, Bender and Hightower disclose a vehicle alerting system for providing vibration and audio alerts to a driver on a lane departing condition, except for specifically stating that a second acoustic or visual alert is given if a vibration alert is ignored.

Yamasaki teaches desirability of providing a vibrational alert to a user of a certain condition and for providing a secondary audible alert to the user if the vibrational alert is not heeded (col. 5, lines 6-23).

It would have been obvious to provide a secondary alert as suggested by Yamasaki in conjunction with the vibration alert system as disclosed by Forbes, Yoshinori, Bender and Hightower, in order that a user could have still been alerted to a hazardous condition even if a preliminary warning was not detected.

3. Regarding remarks filed with the response on 2-20-08, on page 6 it is stated that references do not adequately disclose rapidly approaching objects and vibration warning on a particular seat side where lane change occurs, but such elements are disclosed by Yoshinori and Sato .

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brent A. Swarthout whose telephone number is 571-272-2979. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th from 6:00 to 3:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel Wu, can be reached on 571-272-2964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Application/Control Number: 10/577,212
Art Unit: 2612

Page 5

/Brent A Swarthout/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2612

Brent A Swarthout
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2612